

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 16 – 22, and amend Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 13, and 23 – 27 as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automated preparation of radio-frequency devices for distribution, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of ~~such~~ the radio-frequency devices, each ~~such~~ device comprising an embedded radio-frequency transponder;

sequentially moving each of the radio-frequency devices to a plurality of stations of a preparation device;

encoding, at a first station, a radio-frequency identification code assigned to the each of the radio-frequency devices;

identifying a recipient for the each of the radio-frequency devices; and

labeling, at a second station different from the first station, a package containing the each of the radio-frequency devices with a mailing address for the recipient.

2. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising:

reading, at a third station different from the first and second stations, the radio-frequency identification code from the each of the radio-frequency devices; and

verifying that the read radio-frequency identification code matches the assigned radio-frequency identification code.

3. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising providing radio-frequency shielding around at least the first station.

4. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising providing radio-frequency shielding around the preparation device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1 wherein:
receiving the plurality of ~~such~~ the radio-frequency devices comprises receiving each ~~such~~ device in an enclosure; and
encoding the radio-frequency identification code is performed without removing the each of the radio-frequency devices from the enclosure.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 5 wherein the package is the enclosure.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising encapsulating the each of the radio-frequency devices in material to produce a structure of a standard size, wherein the preparation device is adapted to move objects of the standard size to the plurality of stations.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7 wherein encapsulating the each of the radio-frequency devices comprises heat shrink wrapping the each of the radio-frequency devices.

9. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising affixing the each of the radio-frequency devices to a backboard having a standard size, wherein the preparation device is adapted to move objects of the standard size to the plurality of stations.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising inserting the each of the radio-frequency devices into an envelope for mailing to the recipient.

11. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1 wherein receiving the plurality of ~~such~~ the radio-frequency devices comprises receiving a reel that includes the plurality of ~~such~~ the radio-frequency devices.

12. (Original) The method recited in claim 11 further comprising cutting the reel between radio-frequency devices to separate the radio-frequency devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a plurality of magnetic-stripe cards;
reading, at a third station different from the first and second stations, an identification of each of the plurality of magnetic-stripe cards from a magnetic stripe comprised by the magnetic-stripe card; and
determining the radio-frequency identification code to be assigned to a corresponding one of the radio-frequency devices from the identification of the each of the plurality of magnetic-stripe cards,
wherein the package further contains the magnetic-stripe card corresponding to the each of the radio-frequency devices.

14. (Original) The method recited in claim 13 further comprising encapsulating the each of the radio-frequency devices in material to produce a structure of a standard size, wherein the preparation device is adapted to move objects of the standard size to the plurality of stations.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 14 wherein the standard size is approximately equal to a size of the magnetic-stripe cards.

16. – 22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for automated preparation of radio-frequency devices for distribution, the method comprising:
receiving a plurality of ~~such~~ the radio-frequency devices, each ~~such~~ device comprising an embedded radio-frequency transponder;

receiving a plurality of magnetic-stripe cards, each **such** magnetic stripe card having a magnetic-stripe identification encoded thereon;

sequentially moving pairs of the radio-frequency devices and magnetic-stripe cards to a plurality of stations of a preparation device;

encoding the radio-frequency device of each **such** pair with a radio-frequency identification code corresponding to the magnetic-stripe identification of the magnetic-stripe card of the each **such** pair at one or more of the stations; and

preparing the each **such** pair for mailing to a recipient at another of the stations.

24. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 23 further comprising:
reading the radio-frequency identification code from the radio-frequency device of the each **such** pair at a further station; and

verifying that the radio-frequency identification code corresponds to the magnetic-stripe identification of the magnetic-stripe card of the each **such** pair.

25. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 23 wherein preparing the each **such** pair for mailing comprises inserting the each **such** pair into an envelope addressed to the recipient.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for automated preparation of radio-frequency devices for distribution, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of enclosures each holding a radio-frequency device, each **such** device comprising an embedded radio-frequency transponder;

sequentially moving each of the enclosures to a plurality of stations of a preparation device;

encoding, at a first station, a radio-frequency identification code assigned to the each of the radio-frequency devices without removing the each of the radio-frequency devices from its enclosure;

identifying a recipient for the each of the radio-frequency devices; and

labeling, at a second station different from the second station, the enclosure of the each of the radio-frequency devices with an address for the recipient.

27. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 26 further comprising:
reading, at a third station different from the first and second stations, the radio-frequency identification code from the each of the radio-frequency devices; and
verifying that the read radio-frequency identification code matches the assigned radio-frequency identification code.

28. (Original) The method recited in claim 26 wherein each of the enclosures is a standard size.